



WISCONSIN WORKS (W-2)

First Quarter 1998 Leavers Study

**Preliminary Process Report
November 6, 1998**

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development



FOREWORD

A team consisting of internal and external staff to the department managed this leavers survey. All of the steering committee assisted in whatever needed to be done. However, each member also contributed certain expertise to the effort.

Jan Van Vleck of the Department's Secretary's Office had overall project management responsibility and chaired a steering committee which managed this project. Heidi Hammes of DES Bureau of Welfare Initiatives served as the W-2 policy specialist and lead advisor; Edwin Kennedy of the Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) was the liaison with the UW Extension Survey Research Lab (WSRL), monitored survey completion, assured survey data integrity, and made the data useable for analysis; OQA Chief Linda Ausse assured that OQA staff was there to field the survey and dealt with associated management issues; DES Research and Statistics Francine Horton, Robert Korb and Ingrid Rothe dealt with the sample and methodological issues; DES Office of Child Care Kay Hendon and Dave Edie provided input on collecting relevant data; and the Hudson Institute's Rebecca Swartz drafted use friendly documents.

Catherine O'Neill and Melissa Cowell, both policy interns, provided analytical support to the steering team. Hyun Lee from DES Research and Statistics pulled sample data and Robert Demaala from Deloitte and Touche--the contractor for CARES (Wisconsin Works, Food Stamps and Medicaid automated system)--identified appropriate sources for obtaining the required sample.

OQA field supervisor Phyllis Rehm had lead field survey responsibility. Phyllis worked with OQA field supervisors Kathleen Morrell, Robert Johnson, Keith Johnson, and Randall Lauritzen. WSRL did initial telephone surveys and OQA field staff located and contacted those not contacted by WSRL. Oralia Seymour of Milwaukee OQA interviewed all the Spanish speaking leavers and Ying Lee in DES Office of Refugee Assistance handled the Southeast Asian speakers.

Special thanks goes to Dr. Don Klos for assistance in modifying the South Carolina Questionnaire, in training WSRL and OQA staff in the use of the questionnaire, and in providing invaluable advice and consultation throughout the survey.

FIRST QUARTER 1998 LEAVERS STUDY

Project Overview

The First Quarter 1998 Leavers Study is a Department of Workforce Development, Division of Economic Support initiative. The study is designed to provide policy makers and others with empirical information and analysis on transitioning welfare recipients from welfare to self sufficiency. The study will examine:

- individual efforts to obtain employment and to remain employed
- quality of life issues, and
- supports to self sufficiency, such as
 - ⇒ child care
 - ⇒ medical insurance, and
 - ⇒ transportation.

The study covers a cohort of leavers who ended their participation in AFDC or W-2 from January through March, 1998. It covers part of the period in which the state was converting from an AFDC program to Wisconsin Works (W-2). The conversion began in September, 1997 for all new welfare applicants. The conversion of existing AFDC applicants began in September, 1997 and ended in March, 1998. The conversion included transferring certain groups into programs other than W-2 and ending eligibility for those no longer covered by TANF.

The study includes individuals:

- who participated in W-2 and/or AFDC during any part of the three month period between January 1, 1998 and March 31, 1998,
- who ended their participation in the program prior to April 1, and
- who did not return to welfare as of the date of their interviews.

The design phase of the study began in June, 1998. The survey instrument is a modified version of an instrument that was designed and implemented in South Carolina by Dr. Donald Klos. After making minor modifications to reflect program differences between the states, the Wisconsin instrument was pretested in early August, 1998.

The fielding of the survey began on August 21, 1998. The data collection portion of the study was completed in early November, 1998 and a report will be issued in December, 1998. A more detailed timeline is contained in Appendix A.

Study Population

Sample: A total of 3,564 individuals were on AFDC or W-2 at some point between January 1, 1998 and March 31, 1998, ended participation in the program prior to April 1, and did not return to welfare as of June 30, 1998. For study purposes, those 3,564 individuals formed the “universe” of first quarter 1998 leavers. These leavers were the adults who were the case heads

From the universe, a simple random sample of 654 individuals (17%) was drawn for pretest and study purposes. All 654 individuals were to be asked to participate in a 22 minute interview. 50 were randomly selected without replacement exclusively for the pretest. The remaining 604 individuals were part of the formal study.

Response Rate: The intent was to complete at least 400 interviews with a target response rate of at least 70%. The selection of 604 individuals assumed some of the sampled leavers would have returned to welfare between the time the sample was pulled and the time of contact.

The number of those to be excluded as not eligible for the survey turned out to be higher than expected. Of the 604 individuals who were part of the formal study, 43 of those returned to welfare between July 1 and the date of contact, ten should not have been identified as being on welfare (new system and conversion problems) and two had died. These 55 represented 25% of the initial sample and were dropped from the study.

The original plan was that at least 320 interviews were to be completed by WSRL using its CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview) system. At least 80 more would be completed by OQA field staff, preferably by phone, but on a face-to-face basis if the leavers did not have phones or could not be contacted by phone.

In actuality WSRL completed 197 interviews, OQA staff 175 and Refugee Assistance staff completed 3 for a total of 375 interviews. That is, 69% of the 547 eligible to be interviewed were interviewed. Explanatory notes on a case log were kept for each contact by both WSRL and OQA field staff. Leavers were not paid for participating in the interviews. Appendix B summarizes these survey contact results.

Pretest: Introductory letters were sent to the fifty pretest individuals. The letters asked them to participate in the survey, promised confidentiality in the use and release of study results, and provided an option of calling a WSRL toll free number to be interviewed or to schedule an interview. The letter indicated if they did not contact WSRL, WSRL would contact them. WSRL called and was available for calls seven days a week including evening hours. Appendix C contains a copy of the WSRL introductory letter.

WSRL interviewed 12 with a thirteenth individual declining to be interviewed. OQA field supervisors assigned the remaining 37 cases to field staff. Ten of those individuals were interviewed to completion, yielding an overall pretest completion rate of 44 percent. Additional pretest interviews could have been completed, but the objectives of the pretest had been met. Based on the pretest, minor changes were made to the instrument and it was estimated that each interview would take an average of 22 minutes.

Study Overview

WSRL Telephone Contacts: Four days prior to being contacted by phone, all 604 leavers in the sample received the WSRL introductory letters. As with the pretest, to contact the leavers WSRL used the June 30, 1998 phone numbers from CARES - the date of the random sample. WSRL was authorized to use directory assistance (\$1 per check) and request credit checks (\$5 per check) to locate individuals when the CARES phone numbers were no longer usable. The WSRL questionnaire is in Appendix D.

WSRL made as many calls as possible to usable phone numbers at different times of the day and week in an effort to reach each leaver. No fewer than seven calls were made to locate such leavers. WSRL returned the names of leavers without usable phone numbers or who didn't speak English to OQA on a weekly basis. OQA forwarded those names to the appropriate OQA field supervisor to locate and interview the leavers.

OQA Contacts: To the extent possible, OQA field staff located and interviewed leavers by phone. Face-to-face interviews were attempted when leavers did not have access to a phone. OQA field supervisors were authorized to have staff flex their schedules as necessary to make contacts in the evenings and on weekends.

"Reasonable efforts to locate" was defined to exclude anything that might jeopardize a leaver's employment or otherwise cause the leaver to suffer embarrassment or adverse effects. When security was an issue, the OQA field supervisor determined how and if the interview would be conducted and could consult with OQA management on a case by case basis.

Identifying and Locating Leavers: To identify leavers who returned to W-2 after the date of the sample run of leavers, questions were added to the WSRL questionnaire to identify who should not be interviewed. For the leavers sent to OQA field staff for interviewing, instead of using the added WSRL questions, OQA staff checked CARES to determine if the leavers had returned. If the leavers were in CARES, but receiving only Food Stamps, Medicaid, or child care, they were interviewed.

Locator techniques included:

- Rechecking CARES for a more recent telephone number or address when the leaver is receiving Food Stamps or Medicaid and for clues which might provide the location of the leaver such as the last employer on the UI wage record, a UI benefits query, a name of child care provider, and/or a county child care office.
- Reviewing KIDS (child support automated system) for the leaver's address and phone number at the time of the last check.
- Making Other Queries such as DMV (motor vehicle and driver's license) checks; address checks on SSI printouts if anyone in household receives SSI, or a contact SS office for those on Social Security.
- Contacting Community Sources such as landlords, rent assistance organizations, the neighborhood post office, schools, neighbors and LIEAP.

Non-English Speaking Leavers: The 20 participants whose primary language is Spanish were all assigned to the Milwaukee office to be conducted by one bilingual OQA staff member. A single individual doing these interviews provided consistency in translating the questionnaire since no translations of the instrument were available. The Office of Refugee Assistance handled the 7 interviews with leavers who spoke Hmong (6) or Laotian (1). A family member translated for one leaver who spoke Polish.

Data Summation: The WSRL CATI system was used to electronically record all completed questionnaires. WSRL entered their questionnaires while the leavers responded to the questions over the phone. OQA forwarded their completed interviews to WSRL for entry into the CATI system. WSRL coded the open ended questions, compiled the data and will forward the results to OQA in both ASCII and Excel formats. OQA will conduct most of the statistical tests using SAS, but Excel and Access will also be used.

Thank You Letters: Thank you letters signed by the DWD Secretary were sent to all those contacted including those who refused to be interviewed. Those who refused to be interviewed were urged to contact OQA field staff for interviews. All were also given limited eligibility information for Food Stamps, Medicaid, child care subsidies, and Healthy Start plus a postcard which could be returned if they wanted a copy of the report. See Appendix E for these documents.

Agency and Public Requests for Forms or Information

Prior to discussing the leaver survey plan publicly, much time was spent preparing and testing the survey process. Once the survey was fielded in August, references to it began appearing in newspaper articles in response to media questions about leavers. In September DWD issued a press release about the survey. The press release was picked up by the media. There have been a few follow up contacts including a recent call from the AP asking about the final report. See Appendix F for the press release.

Upon request, a copy of Wisconsin survey instrument is shared. A record kept of who receives it. No data has been shared with the press. Partial data was shared with the leavers steering committee as a basis for beginning the drafting of the final report.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A.....	Leavers Project Timeline
Appendix B.....	Leavers Contact Results
Appendix C.....	W-2 Evaluation
Appendix D.....	Contact Tracking Sheet
Appendix E	Blank Templates for Correspondences Regarding the Study
Appendix F	Newsrelease: W-2, AFDC “Leavers” Study Underway by State Agency

Leavers Project Timeline

	Begin	End	Days
Initial Planning.....	May 15	June 14	30
Sample Definition	June 15	June 30	15
Sample Selection	July 1	July 27	30
Pretest Instrument	July 27	August 14	7
(Both WSRL and OQA)			
Field Survey			
WSRL Telephone Efforts	August 21	October 15	73
OQA Field Efforts	August 28	November 6	70
(Telephone and Personal Contacts)			
WSRL Final Entry and Compilation	November 10	November 16	6
OQA Data Analysis and Formatting	November 16	November 23	7
Report Writing	November 23	December 15	22
Final Report.....		December	

Appendix B

LEAVERS CONTACT RESULTS

	Number	Percent Group	Percent Total	Adjusted for Ineligibles Number	Percent
Completed Interviews					
OQA	175	47%		175	
WSRL	197	53%		197	
Refugee Services	3	1%		3	
Sub Total	375		62%	375	69%
Subjects Not Interviewed					
Declined Interview	69	30%		69	
Returned to Welfare	43	19%			
Couldn't Locate	99	43%		99	
No 1st Qtr Welfare	10	4%		10	
Died	4	2%			
Jail	4	2%		4	
Sub Total	229		38%	172	31%
TOTAL	604		100%	547	100%

Note: Subjects who returned to welfare, or who did not receive first quarter benefits, or who died during the follow-up period have been removed from the data in the columns labeled "Adjusted for Ineligibles". These data are complete through 11/09/98.

W-2 EVALUATION
WISCONSIN SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY
1930 MONROE STREET, 2ND FLOOR

August 1, 1998

<<NAME>>
<<ADDR1>>
<<ADDR2>>
<<ADDR3>>

DEAR <<NAME>>

We are doing a study to find out how people who have left welfare are doing. This study is for Wisconsin's Department of Workforce Development (DWD). We would like to call you in a few days to talk with you about your experience as part of this study. We will be talking with about 300 people.

Some of the questions we will ask are:

- How easy or hard was it to find and keep a job after you left welfare?
- Do you have a car or do you take the bus to work?
- How easy or hard was it to find child care for your children?
- Do you think you were treated fairly by your caseworker?

The study results will go to DWD but not to any local W-2 or social service agency. Everything you tell us will be kept private. We will not release your name or any other information that would identify you. Although you do not have to talk to us, we hope you will.

To participate in this study, you can either

- Call us at our toll-free number (1-800-442-7105, extension 3287), between 9a.m.-9 p.m., Monday Through Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, or 1 p.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.
- Wait for us (the Lab) to call you or
- Fill out and return the enclosed postcard to set up a time and telephone number for you to be called.

Thank you for your help. We value your opinion. Your comments will help us understand how people who have left AFDC or W-2 are doing.

Sincerely,

Holly Breitkreutz, Director

Interview Label Goes Here

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
REVIEW OF CLOSED AFDC AND W-2 CASES

Contact Tracking Sheet

Date	Time of Day	Type Contact (circle one)	Result	Interviewer	Comments
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			
		Tel House			

RESULT CODES

Code	Search Result
N	No Answer/Not home
A	Made Appointment/Call Back
S	Searched New Phone/Address
L	Left Message

Code	Final Result
I	Ineligible Never/Now on FIW2
U	Moved/No address or phone
O	No answer after repeated contacts
R	Refused
T	Telephone Interview Completed
C	Household Interview Completed

Interview Label Goes Here

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Review of Closed AFDC and W-2 Cases

Hello, my name is _____.

I'd like to speak to (respondent 1) or (respondent 2) .

(If no respondent there, determine if respondent still lives there, and either attempt to arrange a callback, or if moved, find out where respondent moved.)

I am working Wisconsin Survey Research Laboratory. The reason I'm calling is to find out what is happening with people who used to be on welfare.

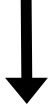
The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development wants to learn about what is happening with people who used to be on welfare. I work for the Department of Workforce Development Wisconsin Research Laboratory which has been hired to do a survey.

I'd like to ask you a few questions about how your life is going these days and about your experiences while on welfare. By "welfare", I mean money and employment services that you got from your local county or tribal W-2 or social service agency. This used to be called AFDC or Aid to Families with Dependent Children and is now called W-2 or Wisconsin Works.

It is up to you whether you answer my questions or not. All information that you give me will be kept secret confidential. There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. And whatever you say will not affect your relationship with your local W-2 or social service agency in any way.

If your willing to answer some questions, it will take about 15 to 2minutes. Will you answer some questions for me?

NO



Terminate, thank person,
R REFUSED SURVEY

YES



CONTINUEE

START TIME FOR INTERVIEW: _____

SURVEY #1

1. For some families, W-2 provides a monthly cash benefit while the parent is learning job skills. If the parent already has job skills, W-2 can provide case management services that help him or her find and keep a job.

Are you currently receiving any W-2 services?

NO



SKIP TO SURVEY #2

YES



2. What types of services or benefits are you are currently getting from W-2?

(IF NONE OF THE SERVICES BELOW ARE MENTIONED, SKIP TO SURVEY #2; CHECK ALL TYPES OF SERVICES MENTIONED; DO NOT READ ANSWERS)

	✓
W-2 monthly cash assistance (\$628 for W-2 T, \$673 for CSJ)	
Trial Job (The W-2 agency subsidizes an employer to hire the W-2 participant)	
Case Management services (one or more of the following): <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Job Search Assistance-Financial Planning-Establishing employment goals-Job Access Loan-Job Readiness Skills	

GO TO THE NEXT PAGE

3. Why did you reapply for W-2 services after leaving welfare earlier this year? (CHECK ALL MENTIONED; DO NOT READ ANSWERS; PROBE: Is there any other reason why you reapplied for W-2?)

Loss of earned income:

	✓
Decreased hours of work	
Job ended	
Loss of health benefits from job	
Hourly wage decreased	
Child Care difficulties	
Transportation difficulties	
Health Issues	
Other (Specify)	

Loss of unearned income:

	✓
Child support payments	
Social Security benefits	
SSI	
Alimony	
Other (Specify)	

Non-financial reasons:

	✓
Wanting assistance in finding a better job	
Marriage/partner breakup	
Family illness/incapacitation	
Other (specify)	

Those are all the questions I have. We may be calling you at a later date for a follow-up interview. Thank you for your help.

SURVEY #2

I'd like to ask what you do when you need to go somewhere these days.

1. Do you have a car, truck, or motorcycle that you use to get around?

NO

↓

IF NO How do you get around? (DO NOT READ ANSWERS CHECK ALL THAT APPLY; PROBE)

a. Walk	✓
b. Bicycle	
c. Ride with relative/friend/neighbor	
d. Borrow vehicle	
e. Bus	
f. Taxi, cab	
g. Other I _____	

YES

↓

(IF YES) **Does this it belong to you?**

NO
YES → Go to next page

↓

(IF NO) **Does it belong to somebody who lives with you?**

NO
YES

(IF DRIVEN OR BORROWED) **Do you pay anything on gas or upkeep of the vehicle?**

(IF YES, ASK) **How much would you guess that you spend on this per week?**

_____dollars/week


(IF USE BUS OR TAXI) **How much would you guess that you spend for public transportation per week?**

_____dollars/week

I will read a list of things that may have happened to you. Each question can be answered “yes” or “no”. If you say “yes”, I’ll ask when this happened. (CIRCLE NO OR YES, THEN IF YES, USE A CHECK MARK TO SHOW WHEN HAPPENED)

FOR EACH YES ASK: **DID THIS HAPPEN TO YOU WHILE YOU WERE ON WELFARE?** then, **DID THIS HAPPEN AFTER YOU LEFT WELFARE?**

	Happened?		ON welfare	AFTER welfare
2. Have you ever gotten behind in rent or other payment for housing?	NO	YES		
3. Did you ever have to move because you could not pay for housing?	NO	YES		
4. Did you ever get behind on a utility bill?	NO	YES		
5. Did you ever go without electricity in your home?	NO	YES		
6. Did you ever go without heat in your home?	NO	YES		
7. Did your water ever get cut off?	NO	YES		
8. Did you ever have to go to a homeless shelter?	NO	YES		
9. Was your telephone ever cut off?	NO	YES		
10. Did your children ever have to live with someone else because you could not take care of them?	NO	YES		
11. In order to work, have you ever needed a regular baby sitter or child care service but could not find it?	NO	YES		
12. Did a car or truck ever get taken away because you could not keep up payments?	NO	YES		
13. Have you ever needed someone to look after an elderly parent but could not get anyone to do it?	NO	YES		
14. In order to work, have you ever needed a regular baby sitter or child care service but could not <u>pay</u> for it?	NO	YES		
15. Was somebody in your home ever sick or hurt when you could not get medical care?	NO	YES		
16. Have you ever moved in with anyone to share household expenses?	NO	YES		
17. Has anyone ever moved in with you to share household expenses?	NO	YES		
18. Was there ever a time when you had no way to buy food?	NO	YES		
<u>IF DID NOT HAVE MONEY FOR FOOD ON and/or OFF WELFARE ASK FOR EACH PERIOD MENTIONED ABOVE:</u>				
17.19. When you did not have money for food, what did you and your family do? (DO NOT READ RESPONSES; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY; PROBE)			ON welfare	AFTER welfare
Went hungry				
Got meals or food at shelter/food kitchen/food pantry				
Got meals/food/money for food from church				
Were given food or money for food by friends/relatives				
Other _____				

20. **Do you have children living with you in your home?** (IF NO, GO TO PG. 10; ELSE DO 20a) 

20a. **How many of these children are school age?**

(If R asks, "school age" means 5 to 18 years of age)

Number of children ____ (IF ZERO, GO TO Q.23 ELSE DO 20b) 

20b. **How many of these children are attending school?** (IF DURING SUMMER BREAK, ASK: **How many of these children will be attending school in the fall?**)

Number attending: ____ (IF NUMBER ATTENDING IS SAME AS THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN HOME, SKIP TO 21; ELSE, DO 20c) 

20c. **What about the one(s) who is/are not attending school?**

(ALLOW R TO EXPLAIN. DO NOT READ RESPONSES. IF NECESSARY, PROBE TO FIND OUT NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN EACH CATEGORY BELOW)

FOR EACH MENTIONED: **Did that happen while you were still on welfare or after?**

School Status	Number of Children	
	ON welfare	After welfare
Expelled	_____	_____
Suspended	_____	_____
Graduated	_____	_____
Between schools due to move	_____	_____
Medical Leave	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____
Dropped Out	_____	_____

20d. IF ONE OR MORE DROPOUTS: **Did (this child/any of these) drop out in order to take a job and earn money?** IF YES, WRITE 1 IN THE SPACE BELOW OR ASK: **How many children dropped out in order to work?**

Number children dropped out to work: _____ children

21. (IF ONE OR MORE CHILDREN IN HOME) **Does this child/Do these children now work at a job that pays money?** (IF YES AND ONLY 1 CHILD, ENTER 1 BELOW; ELSE ASK) **How many children work at jobs?**

Number of children working _____

22. (IF NO CHILDREN IN SCHOOL, SKIP THIS AND GO TO 23) **Do you have some kind of extended care or after-school care for your child(ren) in school?**

NO

YES

22a. **Who provides this care for your child(ren)?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

(FOR EACH PROVIDER MENTIONED) **Do you pay money for this care?**

(IF YES, PAY MONEY, ASK) **About how much do you pay per week?**

	0	Pay Money?		Cost per week
School		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Friend		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Relative		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Church		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Child care center		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Family Day Care Home		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Other1_____		NO	YES	\$_____/week

23. **Do you have any children who are too young to attend school?**

NO

YES

23a. **How many young children do you have?** _____ pre-school children

23b. **Is there somebody or some child care service who will look after this/these child(ren) for you?**

NO

YES

23c. **Who provides this care for your child(ren)?** (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

(FOR EACH PROVIDER MENTIONED) **Do you pay money for this care?**

(IF YES, PAY MONEY, ASK) **About how much do you pay per week?**

	0	Pay Money?		Cost per week
School		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Friend		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Relative		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Church		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Child care center		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Family Day Care Home		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Head Start Program		NO	YES	\$_____/week
Other1_____		NO	YES	\$_____/week

GO TO
Q. 23d

23d. Do you get help from the state your local W-2 or Social Service agency to pay for child care?

NO



YES



SKIP TO
NEXT PAGE

23e. Why aren't you getting help? (DO NOT READ ANSWERS; CHECK ALL MENTIONED)

	✓
Didn't think family was eligible	
Kids in school while working	
Provider not certified or licensed	
Free care from relative or friend	
Didn't know help was available	
Too much hassle	
Can't afford the child care co-pay	
No child care available	
Applied but waiting for approval	
Don't like available child care	
Applied for child care and was denied	
Other _____	

GO TO NEXT PAGE

Next, I will read a list of statements. For each, I'd like you to tell me whether you strongly agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. There are no right or wrong answers.
 (CIRCLE ANSWER; PROMPT BY REPEATING OPTIONS)

The first statement is (READ ITEM). Would you say you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

24. Life was better when you were getting welfare	SA	A	D	SD
25. The welfare program wants to get rid of people, not help them	SA	A	D	SD
26. The things you had to do to get welfare assistance were practically no hassle at all	SA	A	D	SD
27. You hardly ever worry about money anymore	SA	A	D	SD
28. Your case worker treated you with perfect fairness.	SA	A	D	SD
29. You have more money now than when you were getting welfare	SA	A	D	SD
30. You felt like your case worker was a part of your family	SA	A	D	SD
31. You buy little extras for yourself and your family without worrying about every penny	SA	A	D	SD
32.. The welfare program was more about rules and red tape than about helping people	SA	A	D	SD
33. You are pretty sure that you will not need to be on welfare again	SA	A	D	SD
34. The money you got from welfare was more trouble than it was worth	SA	A	D	SD
35. You feel like you are just barely making it from day to day	SA	A	D	SD
36. Getting a job is easier than staying on welfare	SA	A	D	SD
37. The training I got while on welfare was no help in getting a job	SA	A	D	SD

Here are some questions about jobs:

38. Are you now working at a job that pays you money?

NO

YES

38a. Have you worked at a job that paid you money since leaving welfare?

NO

YES

NOT CURRENTLY WORKING

38b. Now I'd like you to think about the things that stop you from working for pay. What stops you from working for pay? (CHECK ALL MENTIONED; DO NOT READ ANSWERS; PROBE: Anything else that stops you?)

Mentioned? ✓

Can't find a job

Have no transportation

No child care available

Can't afford child care

Don't like available child care

Lose benefits if working/delay restart benefits

Don't have skills/experience

Can't find job that pays enough

Physical/Mental Illness or injury (SELF)

Phys/Ment Illness or injury (care for OTHER PERSON)

In job training

In full or part time education

Too young to work

Too old to work

Want to stay home with children

Can't get to a job on time

Couldn't get along with coworkers or boss

Laid off from job

Fired from job

Quit job

Currently or recently pregnant

Other1 _____

Other2 _____

NO JOB SINCE WELFARE

HAD JOB, NOT WORKING NOW

SKIP NEXT PAGE

GO TO NEXT PAGE

39. (ADJUST WORDING TO CURRENT STATUS) **Do/Did you have more than one job?** (IF NO, WRITE 1 BELOW. IF YES, ASK: **How many jobs do/did you have?** AND ENTER NUMBER BELOW)

Number of Jobs: _____

Let me ask you a few things about your job(s)

(IF MORE THAN ONE: **Let's talk about what you think is/was your best job**)

39a. **How many hours per week do/did you work at this job?** (PROMPT: **You don't need to be exact.**)

JOB 1 _____ hrs/wk

39b. **How much do/did you get paid for this job?** (PROMPT: **You can tell how much per hour or per week. CIRCLE UNIT, PER HOUR OR WEEK**)

JOB 1 PAY \$ _____ **per HOUR WEEK**

39c. **How long have you worked/did you work in this job?** (PROMPT: **You don't need to be exact. CIRCLE UNIT, WEEKS OR MONTHS**)

JOB 1 TIME _____ **WEEKS MONTHS**

39d. **What is/was your job called?** (PROMPT UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THE JOB IS: **Tell me a little more about what you do/did.**)

39e. (IF NOT MENTIONED, ASK) **What business or industry is that?**

39f. (IF NOT MENTIONED FOR BUSINESS/INDUSTRY, ASK) **What city or town is that in?**

SAY: Now, about your (next best)/ other job...

39g. **How many hours per week do/did you work at this job?**

JOB 2 _____ hrs/wk

39h. **How much do/did you get paid for this job?** (CIRCLE UNIT, PER HOUR OR WEEK)

JOB 2 PAY \$ _____ **per HOUR WEEK**

39i. **How long have you worked/did you work in this job?** (CIRCLE UNIT, WEEKS OR MONTHS)

JOB 2 TIME _____ **WEEKS MONTHS**

39j. **What is/was your job called?** (PROMPT UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THE JOB IS: **Tell me a little more about what you do/did.**)

39k. (IF NOT MENTIONED, ASK) **What business or industry is that?**

39l. (IF NOT MENTIONED FOR BUSINESS/INDUSTRY, ASK) **What city or town is that in?**

GO TO NEXT PAGE



1 JOB, GO TO GO TO NEXT PAGE



TWO JOBS →



IF THERE IS ONLY ONE NAME ON THE CONTACT SHEET'S LABEL, GO TO 40b.

IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE PERSON LISTED ON THE CONTACT SHEET'S LABEL, NOTE THE SECOND PERSON'S NAME AND ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:

40a. **Does** (name of other person) **still live with you?**

NO

GO ON TO Q. 40b

YES

GO TO Q. 41 ON THE NEXT PAGE AND ASK ABOUT (NAME OF OTHER PERSON)

40b. **Is there anybody over age 18 who lives with you?**

YES

40c. **How many people over age 18 live with you?**

(RECORD #) _____ people

40d. **Is (this/one of these) a spouse, or the parent of at least one of your children?**

YES

GO TO Q. 41a ON NEXT PAGE AND ASK ABOUT JOBS FOR THIS PERSON

NO

GO TO Q. 43 ON PAGE 16

41a. Does (this person) now work at a job that pays money?

NO
↓

41b. Has (this person) worked at a job that paid money since leaving welfare?

NO
↓

YES
↓

OTHER NOT CURRENTLY WORKING

41c. Now I'd like you to think about the things that stop (this person) from working for pay. What stops him/her from working for pay? (CHECK ALL MENTIONED; DO NOT READ ANSWERS; PROBE: Anything else that stops him/her?)

	Mentioned
Can't find a job	
Have no transportation	
No child care available	
Can't afford child care	
Don't like available child care	
Would lose benefits if working/delay restart benefits	
Don't have skills/experience	
Can't find job that pays enough	
Physical/Mental Illness or injury (SELF)	
Phys/Ment Illness or injury (care for OTHER PERSON)	
In job training	
In full or part time education	
Too young to work	
Too old to work	
Retired	
Want to stay home with children	
Can't get to a job on time	
Couldn't get along with coworkers or boss	
Laid off from job	
Fired from job	
Quit job	
Currently or recently pregnant	
Other1 _____	

NO JOB SINCE WELFARE
↓

SKIP NEXT PAGE

NOT WORKING NOW
↘

GO TO NEXT PAGE

YES
↓

42. (ADJUST WORDING TO CURRENT STATUS) **Does/Did** (this other person) **have more than one job?** (IF NO, WRITE 1 BELOW. IF YES, ASK: **How many jobs does/did** (this other person) **have?** AND ENTER NUMBER BELOW)

Number of Jobs: _____

Let me ask you a few things about the job(s)

IF MORE THAN ONE: **Let's talk about what you think is/was** (this other person's) **best job**

42a. **How many hours per week does/did** (this other person) **work at this job?**
(PROMPT: **You don't need to be exact.**)

JOB 1 _____ hrs/wk

42b. **How much does/did** (this other person) **get paid for this job?** (CIRCLE UNIT, PER HOUR OR WEEK)

JOB 1 PAY \$ _____ per **HOUR WEEK**

42c. **How long has** (this other person) **worked/did** (this other person) **work in this job?** (CIRCLE UNIT, WEEKS OR MONTHS)

JOB 1 TIME _____ **WEEKS MONTHS**

42d. **What is/was** (this other person's) **job called?** (PROMPT: **Tell me a little more about this?**)

42e. (IF NOT MENTIONED, ASK) **What business or industry is that?**

42f. (IF NOT MENTIONED FOR BUSINESS/INDUSTRY, ASK) **What city or town is that in?**

SAY: **Now, about** (this person's) (next best)/ **other job...**

42g. **How many hours per week does/did** (this other person) **work at this job?**

JOB 2 _____ hrs/wk

42h. **How much does/did** (this other person) **get paid for this job?** (CIRCLE UNIT, PER HOUR OR WEEK)

JOB 2 PAY \$ _____ per **HOUR WEEK**

42i. **How long has** (this other person) **worked/did** (this other person) **work in this job?** (CIRCLE UNIT, WEEKS OR MONTHS)

JOB 2 TIME _____ **WEEKS MONTHS**

42j. **What is/was** (this other person's) **job called?** (PROMPT: **Tell me a little more about this?**)

42k. (IF NOT MENTIONED, ASK) **What business or industry is that?**

42l. (IF NOT MENTIONED FOR BUSINESS/INDUSTRY, ASK) **What city or town is that in?**

1 JOB, GO TO NEXT PAGE

TWO JOBS

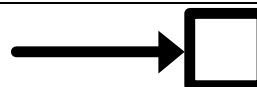
GO TO NEXT PAGE

43. (ALL RESPONDENTS) **Next, I will read a list of benefit programs and types of support and I'd like you to tell me whether you or a family member in your home gets this right now. For the purpose of this survey, family members include your children, your spouse, or the parent of at least one of your children. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

Is anyone in your home family currently getting (read item)?

	✓
Food Stamps	
Medicaid	
Child care assistance	
Child support from a child's parent	
Social Security	
SSI, Supplemental Security Income	
Caretaker Supplement or C-Supp payments	
Money from any retirement or pension fund	
WIC Supplemental Nutrition benefits	
School lunch program	
Summer feeding program for children	
Charitable food through meal program or food pantry	
Payments for doing foster care	
Kinship Care payments	
Tribal payments	
Military veterans' medical benefits	
Workers' Compensation	
Unemployment benefits	
Vocational or Technical College Services	
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services	
Services from a Wisconsin Job Center	
Mental Health Services	
Fuel assistance	
Rent subsidy or public housing	
Free housing from a parent or other relative	
Help in paying bills from family or friends who live with you	
Help in paying bills from family or friends who do <u>not</u> live with you	
Gifts of money from family or friends	
<p>Can you think of a benefit or other support I didn't mention? (IF YES, INDICATE BY RECORDING ANSWER BELOW. PROBE: Anything else?)</p> <p>Other1 _____</p> <p>Other2 _____</p>	

IF RESPONDENT NOT GETTING ANY OF THE ABOVE, CHECK THIS BOX



I'd like to ask you about medical coverage.

44. Do you or other people who live with you have some kind of health insurance that will pay all or some of the medical bills? Insurance includes Medicaid.

YES



NO



44a. What kind of medical coverage? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY;
DO NOT READ ANSWERS; PROBE: Any other coverage?)

FOR EACH CHECKED AS "HAVE" ASK:

How many people under 18 years old are covered? How many 18 years or older are covered?

	Have Ö	# under 18	# 18 up
Medicaid, Medical Assistance, Title 19, Healthy Start		_____	_____
Medicare		_____	_____
CHAMPUS, Tri-Care, Military		_____	_____
Tribal, Indian Health Service		_____	_____
Private insurance (HMOs, BCBS, Supplemental Insurance)		_____	_____



44b. (IF SAYS PRIVATE INSURANCE) Who pays for this insurance coverage, an employer, yourself, an absent parent, or does someone else pay for the coverage? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

	Ö
Employer pays all or part of premium	
Self-pay all or part	
Absent Parent pays all or part	
Other pay (Who is that?) _____	



GO TO NEXT PAGE

There are some benefits that people can continue to get even if they are no longer on welfare. I need to ask if you know about these. First,

- | | | |
|--|----|-----|
| 45. Did you know that you may continue to get Food Stamps after leaving welfare? | NO | YES |
| 46. Did you know children may continue to get Medicaid after leaving welfare? | NO | YES |
| 47. Did you know that adults who leave welfare to work may continue to get Medicaid? | NO | YES |



GO TO NEXT PAGE

48. **Finally, I want to ask a question about why you are no longer on welfare. What do you say are the reasons that you no longer get welfare?** (DO NOT READ ANSWERS; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY; PROBE: **Anything else?**)

	ö
Too much money, <u>not from jobs</u>	
Didn't want to give information	
Late in supplying information	
Worker did not tell me that I needed to do something	
Requirements too much hassle	
No transportation - could not meet AFDC/W-2 requirements	
No child care - could not meet AFDC/W-2 requirements	
Considers self unable to work	
Change in household members, lost eligibility	
Not willing to go through work requirements/education	
Could not complete work requirements/education	
Simply did not want to be on AFDC/W-2	
Did not want to identify father of children	
Did not want county or tribal agency involved in child support	
Got a job	
Earned too much money	
Assets over the limit	
Saving eligibility for the future, didn't want to use it up now	
Child support income pushed income over the limit	
Got transportation and that was all needed to work	
Got training/education, then got job	
Got child care and that was all needed to work	
Got married/now living with partner	
Not eligible due to alien/non-citizen status	
Don't know why my case was closed	
Moved out of state	
Ineligible because of job quit or refusal of employment	
Ineligible because of missed appointments	
Started receiving SSI	
Other1 _____	
Other2 _____	

49. Think back to everyone you were living with when you last received welfare, including people who are not part of your family.

49a. Do all of these people still live with you?

NO
↓

YES
↓

49b. Who no longer lives with you?

(FOR EACH PERSON MENTIONED) How old is this person?
What is your relationship to this person?

First Name	Age	Relationship to Respondent

49c. Are any new people living with you since you left welfare?

NO
↓

YES
↓

49d. (FOR EACH PERSON MENTIONED) How old is this person?
What is your relationship to this person?

First Name	Age	Relationship to Respondent

GO TO Q. 50,
NEXT PAGE

50. Those are all the questions I have. We may be calling you at a later date for a follow-up interview. Thank you for your help.

END TIME FOR INTERVIEW: _____

INTERVIEWER COMMENTS: Record any events that may have affected the interview.

September 24, 1998

dAddress

Dear

Thank you for participating in our study of former welfare recipients. You are playing an important role in helping us understand how the W-2 program is working. (See enclosed press release.)

In a few months we will have a report summarizing the survey results. No names will be used in the report or given to caseworkers. If you would like a free copy of the summary, complete and return the enclosed postage paid postcard.

Also enclosed is information on **Food Stamps, Medicaid and child care subsidies**--important services for you and your family. To apply for any of these services, contact your local W-2 agency.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Linda Stewart
Secretary

September 24, 1998

dAddress

Dear

You recently declined to participate in our survey. I respect your decision. We will not contact you again without your permission. **However, I want to encourage you to participate.**

Your opinion is important. If you participate in the survey, *YOUR EXPERIENCES* will help us understand how people who have left welfare are doing. (See enclosed press release.)

Remember, everything you tell us will be kept private. No names will be used in the report or given to caseworkers.

To participate in the study, please

Call this number: 1-800-442-7105, extension 3287 (toll-free)
between
9 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday;
9 am to 6 pm, Saturday; or
1 pm to 9 pm, Sunday;.

-OR-

Fill out and return the enclosed postcard so that we may contact you.

In a few months we will have a report summarizing the survey results. If you would like a free copy of the summary, complete and return the enclosed postage paid postcard.

Also enclosed is information on **Food Stamps, Medicaid and child care subsidies**--important services for you and your family. To apply for any of these services, contact your local W-2 agency.

Sincerely,

Linda Stewart
Secretary

Please check the box(es) which applies to you and return this postcard. If neither box is checked, do not return this postcard.

- Check here if you have not completed the phone survey regarding former welfare recipients and you would like to be contacted to complete the survey.

- Check here if you would like to receive a copy of the survey summary.

If you have checked either box, please provide a name, address and phone number so that we may reach you by phone or mail:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

DES-11178 (N. 10/98)

ATTENTION FORMER WELFARE RECIPIENTS

Contact your local W-2 agency to apply for any of the programs listed below. Even if you were denied eligibility for a program in the past, you can always reapply if you think you now meet the program requirements.

You do not have to apply for W-2 services to be eligible for these programs.

FOOD STAMPS

Low income households may be eligible for Food Stamp coupons to purchase groceries. The amount of Food Stamps issued is based on household size, expenses, income, and assets.

Monthly Household Income Limit:

Family of 1 = \$ 855	Family of 4 = \$1,739
Family of 2 = \$1,150	Family of 5 = \$2,034
Family of 3 = \$1,445	Family of 6 = \$2,239

CHILD CARE

If you are having trouble meeting your child care expenses while you are working, the Child Care Program offers assistance to qualified families. There is an income and asset test.

Monthly Household Income Limit:

Family of 2 = \$1,492	Family of 5 = \$2,647
Family of 3 = \$1,877	Family of 6 = \$3,032
Family of 4 = \$2,262	Family of 7 = \$3,417

(OVER)

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

You may be able to get Medicaid even though you are not participating in W-2. In general, individual and families will be eligible for Medicaid benefits if they qualify under one of the following groups:

- **Healthy Start - under age 6 and pregnant women:** Children under age 6 and pregnant women in households with income up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level.
- **Healthy Start - ages 6 and older:** Children age 6 and older, born after September 30, 1983, in households with income up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level.
- **Medicaid:** The head of household with children of any age through age 18.

Medicaid Monthly Income and Assets Guide				
Maximum Monthly Income/Maximum Total Assets (Effective for 1998. Income limits change yearly)				
	Healthy Start		Medicaid	
	Children under Age 6 and Pregnant Women	Children Ages 6 and older (born after 9/30/83)	Head of Household with Children	
Group Size*	Income	Income	Income	Assets
1	\$1,241.04	\$ 670.83	\$311.00	\$1,000 for all group sizes
2	\$1,672.71	\$ 904.17	\$550.00	
3	\$2,104.38	\$1,137.50	\$647.00	
4	\$2,536.04	\$1,370.83	\$722.00	

* Pregnant woman counts as group size 2.

Please contact your local W-2 agency for more information on eligibility requirements or to apply for Medicaid.

If you have questions about what Medicaid pays for, please call 1-800-362-3002.

FOR RELEASE

Thursday, Sept. 10, 1998

Governor

Tommy G. Thompson

Secretary

Linda Stewart

Contact

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608/267-4400

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Jan Van Vleck, 608/266-6722

W-2, AFDC “leavers” study underway by state agency

Madison, Wis. -- Interviews will continue next week for the fourth week with former welfare recipients who did not participate in W-2 as AFDC ended, a state agency announced today. The goal is to find out why they dropped out and how they have fared.

The study also is attempting to determine why some left AFDC in the three months before that program ended, said Linda Stewart, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

A random sample was chosen from the 3,564 persons who left AFDC or W-2 between January and March, 1998. Those included in the survey group comprise about 17 per cent of the total, she said.

About 125 persons already have been interviewed since the survey began Aug. 21. About 600 persons will be contacted within the next several weeks.

A final report is expected in late-October if there are no complications, she said.

The interviews consists mainly of telephone calls and some “face to face” discussions with those without telephones. Participation is voluntary.

W-2 began Sept. 1, 1997, while AFDC ended April 1 this year. Some of those being contacted had enrolled in W-2 but then left during the first three months of this year, while others on AFDC chose not to continue in AFDC or to participate in W-2.

Stewart’s agency administers the W-2 program statewide and commissioned the University of Wisconsin Survey Research Laboratory to conduct the telephone surveys.

(more)



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

“Besides telling us why people left welfare and W-2, the study will examine individual efforts to obtain jobs and remain employed, quality of life issues, and such job-related issues as child care, medical insurance and transportation,” Stewart said.

The design phase of the project began in June, and is based on a modified version of a survey that was used in South Carolina. A Wisconsin “pre-test” involving 50 randomly-selected persons was conducted in early August in Wisconsin to work out any problems.

Those for whom English is not a primary language are being contacted by interviewers with knowledge of those languages.

Stewart said those who chose not to participate in W-2 still may enroll in the program, if they have had second thoughts or their situation has changed since they made their earlier decision. Anyone who returned to the program after June 30 will be dropped from the study.

“Interviewers are telling us that most of those contacted so far have been pleased to have an opportunity to talk about their experiences,” Stewart said. Only 13 persons who have been contacted thus far have refused to participate, she added.

(end)